



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 18.27 Thursday, July 5, 2012 FREE  
 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

## LDFA maps strategy for looming Visteon bonds shortfall

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

During a lively special meeting on June 19, the board of Van Buren Township's Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) began mapping a strategy to deal with the big shortfall expected on funds to pay the Visteon bonds in 2017 or 2018.

The bonds issued by the township in 2003 to help Visteon develop Visteon Village were \$25.8 million. By the time the bonds are paid off in 2032, the amount for principle and interest will be \$56 million, which is guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the township.

It is estimated taxpayers would have to pay up to an extra 6 mills to cover the bonds, if the funds to pay them run out, as expected, in 2017 or 2018.

Terry Carroll gave board members an update on the April sale by Visteon of Grace Lake Property (formerly called Visteon Village) to Sovereign Partners LLC, a New York firm.

"Included in the document that was provided to the LDFA, although the sale was rumored to be in the \$80 million range, through the assessing process that we must follow, the true cash value of the property was assessed at \$64 million for the upcoming tax year, 2013.

"This is a far cry from the \$300 million true cash value that is necessary to retire the bonds with the finance from the proceeds alone," Carroll continued.

"We will continue to see a gap in the amount of the tax increment that was anticipated at the time the bonds were sold.

"The impact of that is that we are going to run out of money because we are currently using the proceeds of the bankruptcy settlement to make up that gap. Those are estimated to run out in 2018," he said.

*(continued on page 3)*



*Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman*

Jimmy Long, at left, fired up his grille and served up a picnic lunch on Saturday at the Sumpter Township fairgrounds. He invited as honored guests all the police and fire fighters from Sumpter, Van Buren, and Belleville to show them his appreciation for the important work they do for their communities. Here he takes a minute out of his cooking to pose with one of the families attending: Sumpter Police Lt. Eric Luke, Trully Luke and their twin sons (with their second birthday coming up in mid July) Alexander, left, and Benjamin. Long said he appreciated the way his family member was treated during a recent emergency in his Sumpter Township home and wanted to do something for the emergency crews. The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees supported his project and also were present at the party.

## City Planners approve outdoor café seating for Charhouse

By Bob Mytych  
*Independent Special Writer*

At its June 14 meeting the Belleville Planning Commission granted a café permit for the Belleville Charhouse to have outdoor café seating along its frontage on Main Street.

Owners John and Cindy Dakis were on hand to answer questions about their plans to make outdoor eating more visible in the downtown area.

The outdoor layout will feature seven bistro-sized tables with two chairs each. Three will be located on one side of the front entrance and four to the opposite side. The smaller tables were proposed to allow the 10-foot ordinance requirement for pedestrians on the sidewalk. The distance between the restaurant building and Main Street is 13 feet, 6 inches.

In other business, the commission discussed amendments to the ordinance that controls outdoor café seating and definitions aimed at simplifying the process of getting a permit for its commercial and central business district.

Currently, the ordinance requires all applicants to have special-use approval. A prior approval the city granted to another business did not require the special-use approval.

Thus there have been two ordinances

*(continued on page 18)*

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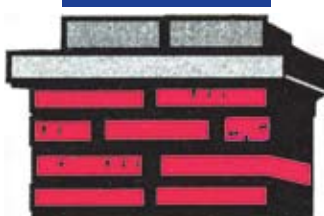
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White said, “It was subject to sell to certain qualifications at that point. Currently, we are not in a deficit as far as the property tax goes. The bond payments can be paid until 2017 or 2018, most likely 2018, and the settlement that we reach with Visteon at that time considering the tax abatement

-- Rosemary K. Oztman, Editor

Peters wanted to get everything in writing, all agreements between Sovereign and General Electric. And then get an opinion from the LDFA counsel about the ability

“If we don’t pay attention to their former CEO when he tells us how to cheat local

The next meeting of the LDFA is scheduled for 2 p.m., Tuesday, July 10. Dotson said a special meeting could be called, if necessary.

Generally, municipal bonds are attractive because the interest paid each year is tax-free.



# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### LDFA finally gets busy with strategy to avert disaster

The Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) was organized in 2003 to manage the bonds VBT sold to help Visteon build Visteon Village. The bonds, which mature in 2032, were to be paid off through the captured taxes from Visteon Village since the property was sure to increase in value after it was built and prospering.

Well, bankruptcy hit Visteon and the property is worth a lot less than it used to be and the taxes captured are much less. The problem is that the VBT Board of Trustees in 2003 pledged the full faith and credit of the township to back the bonds.

In 2017 or 2018, there is not going to be enough money in the LDFA pot to pay the bonds and so it is likely the taxpayers in Van Buren Township may have to be taxed up to 6 mills to cover the shortfall.

While we've had letters to the editor voicing concern about the upcoming disaster and Carl Johnson even gave us a spreadsheet to publish to show the looming disaster, the LDFA didn't seem too much concerned.

In 2012 the LDFA canceled its March, April, and May meetings for a "lack of agenda". The June 12 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. It was at the June 19 special meeting that the urgency of the situation was addressed.

The problem is exacerbated by the sale of the Visteon Village property (now called Grace Lake). At last, we're getting some preliminary action to avert disaster.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Last week, U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, who failed to get enough signatures to be placed on the ballot for a reelection bid this fall, has announced that at year's end, all of his remaining political funds will be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

\*\*\*

Canton Township is one of 13 communities selected this summer for the Detroit Institute of Arts' Inside/Out program -- just like the City of Belleville had last year.

Belleville's Downtown Development Authority arranged for the artworks to come to town and it was a very popular project.

Canton will have six weatherproofed artworks in outside locations around town, including the Canton Library and the township Administration Building.

Others taking part in the program this year are Clawson, Clinton Township, Dearborn, Detroit, Ferndale, Garden City, Harrison Township, Northville, Royal Oak, Trenton, Troy, and Waterford.

Do you think this DIA outreach to the communities has anything to do with the yes votes the DIA would like for its requested millage on the August ballot?

In the Aug. 7 election, the DIA is asking for .2 mills for 10 years to support the arts institute and its programs. Wayne County voters also are being asked for a renewal of little less than 1 mill for 10 years for construction and maintenance of jails.

\*\*\*

The last few weeks have had very, very hot temperatures, but the indefatigable candidates for various township positions in the Aug. 7 primary election have been out



on the streets, going door to door meeting residents and asking for their votes.

The only incumbent official unopposed on the Van Buren and Sumpter Township ballots this August is Sumpter Clerk Clarence Hoffman, Jr., who has been a Sumpter public official for more than 24 years. He has served as supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee for his township.

On Saturday, I told him I was sending him a candidate's questionnaire to fill out and he replied, "Again?" I quickly searched my mind and then said, "Clarence, the last time I sent you one was four years ago!" He agreed it was so.

It probably doesn't matter, anyway, since no one is running against him, unless an Independent candidate files for the November election, or a write-in candidate pops up. Unlikely.

Clarence told me once that his mother was Bessie Hoffman, the first Black school board member in the Lincoln School District. The school building on Willow Road near Rawsonville is named after her. A fine heritage.

\*\*\*

A man who lives on Harris Road in Sumpter Township brought in a picture on his cell phone to share with us of a young raccoon draped over the man's feeder, which is affixed to a tree in his yard. He said he puts peanuts in the feeder for squirrels and other animals, but lately the young raccoons have been helping themselves to

some nuts and climbing higher in the tree to eat them. The one draped over the feeder was a different kind of raccoon.

The picture he showed me was taken at 2 p.m. last Thursday. He said he thought that raccoons were nocturnal creatures, but these young ones seem to be around all day long.

\*\*\*

Our readers have been guessing about the unnamed newspaper company that helped us out last week when my son Jim fell ill and had to be hospitalized. Jim does all the computer work that sends our pages to the printer via internet, so I was in a pickle. A Good Samaritan helped.

I asked for permission to name the company that helped us and the head of its production arm said to go ahead.

The company that sent over a computer expert with the necessary skills to help me get the paper out was Heritage Newspapers (owned by the Journal Register Company). This group also prints our paper.

You may remember that Sharron and Clarence Russell started The View in Sumpter and then moved it to Belleville. They ran it for many years. The Russells sold The View to Heritage Newspapers. Later, Journal Register bought the Heritage papers.



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**INDEPENDENT**

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## Letters

### VBT resident tells sad tale of her dog Casper

To the Editor:

I am writing you as a concerned and upset pet owner who recently lost my family dog.

First I'd like to say that the public services provided by Van Buren Township are exceptional, especially the Animal Control Officer who responded to our family's tragedy – this man was truly an angel in disguise and well-trained.

It was Sunday morning (the week before Memorial Day), our family dog "Casper" was outside on her dog chain (a heavy dog rated wire cable) – when our peaceful day was shattered by a kind lady yelling at our windows that she thought our dog had been hit by a passing car.

I rushed out the door to find my family's companion under my SUV, breathing hard, covered with blood and visible struggling while still trying to wag her tail at me. While calling for other family members to assist me, the very kind Animal Control person, Officer Queener showed up in his township truck.

He noted that Casper's chain was out in the drive, which had obviously been attached to our dog and started making compassionate suggestions as I tried to calm down my now-crying, six-year-old daughter.

Officer Queener offered to transport our pet to the nearest Animal Hospital in Ypsilanti. We all were well aware that Casper was critically injured and was not going to make it, but Officer Queener's

soothing manner gave my daughter the ability to quiet down.

As we were getting ready to leave with Casper, a Van Buren Township police officer pulled into my driveway. The officer requested my information and proceeded to write me two tickets – (1) Dog At Large and (2) No Dog License. I do not (and still don't) understand the first ticket (Dog At Large) – because it was obvious our Casper had been on her chain and had broken off it.

Casper's injuries were too much for her and she was put to sleep that same day. My daughter still cries for her companion but she is doing better as time passes. Me? Now, I'm facing misdemeanor charges that can carry a \$500 fine and I could be sentenced to up to 90 days in jail (my court date is the 26th of June, 2012).

Animal Lover and Thank You Officer Queener,  
Stephanie Obryan  
Van Buren Township

### This is an obituary for America, the land I love

To the Editor:

Obituary

America: The land that I love and proudly served in the military to protect the opportunities and freedoms she stood for, passed away Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., after a long illness brought on by a poor selection of political leaders over a long period of time.

She is survived by Mickey and Linda Widener, their children and grandchildren, and freedom-loving Americans everywhere. May God have mercy on our souls as we enter what may be the darkest days in American history.

God Bless you, America. We're going to miss you.

Mickey Widener, Van Buren Township

### In support of Leon Wright for VBT Clerk

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Leon Wright, Van Buren Township Clerk.

As a 19-year neighbor and friend, Leon is always one of the first to help others in time of need and to take action. Growth in Van Buren Township is inevitable. I trust Clerk Wright to continue to help lead our Township in a positive direction.

Steve Bartlett

Van Buren Township Resident

*"I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury."*

--Groucho Marx



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## More Letters

### Belleville Young Life to hold golf tournament

To the Editor:

Belleville Young Life is proud to announce our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament. Belleville Young Life is a non-profit organization that reaches and mentors youths in Belleville, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, Ypsilanti, Wayne, Canton, and Romulus.

In March of 2011 a group of nearly 100 concerned parents, clergy, teachers, school administrators, and teens, met and decided to take action and begin a Young Life Program. Since then our team has given 1,566 volunteer hours.

With your partnership we will be able to continue to provide the vital resources it takes to keep this much-needed, non-profit youth organization progressively moving forward. Our children benefit because your resources go directly to their future, by providing them with cost for camp, operating supplies, transportation, and cost for facilities.

**WHAT:** Your Belleville Young Life Organization will be hosting the first Young Life Golf Fundraiser.

**WHEN:** July 22 from 1 to 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Eagle Crest Golf Club, 1275 South Huron St., Ypsilanti (734) 487-2441

**SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:** Every sponsor will be recognized on our website and on next year's brochure.

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**FRIENDS OF YOUNG LIFE:** \$100 - Includes advertising on main tournament sign

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**SINGLE PLAYER:** \$100 - Includes one entry to golf

**HOW DO I REGISTER?** Please register and pay online at [www.bellevillyounglife.org](http://www.bellevillyounglife.org). Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions regarding this fundraiser or the Belleville Young Life Organization.

Your Belleville Life Children thank you in advance for taking an investment step in their future.

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# Obituaries

## BETTY MARIE HORSTE

Betty Marie Horste, age 78 of Manitou Beach passed away at Bixby Hospital in Adrian on June 22, 2012. Betty was born in Belleville, MI to Francis and Margaret (Mandelka) Conklin. Betty married Omar "Buddy" Horste and he preceded her in death in 2003. Betty was a member of the Oakville Waltz Methodist Church and enjoyed time playing bunco and doing crafts. She is survived by her sons: John and James Horste, 2 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, brothers Russell and Billy. Betty was preceded in death by 9 siblings. Donations may be shared with the family to offset funeral expenses. A Memorial Gathering will be on Saturday, July 7, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Victory Park Comfort Station in Belleville, MI.

## BERNADETTE WEBSTER

(December 2, 1934 - June 26, 2012)

Age 77. Survived by husband, sons Mark and Mike (Patricia), 14 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, brothers Guy and Colby Wright, and sister Gertrude Hunt. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

## JANE BAKER

Jane Baker, 82, of Sumpter Township went to be with her Lord and Savior on May 24, 2012. She retired from General Motors on the same day, May 24, in 1982. Jane and her husband Jim moved to Sumpter Township and spent their retirement working on their home and being active with their church, family and friends.

Jane's family was special to her. She is survived by her husband Jim, a son Ken and his wife Sandy, a daughter Linda Adkins and her husband Bill. Her remaining sibling is a sister, Shirley Morgan who resides in Florida.

She also leaves behind four grandchildren and their spouses, as well as five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom called her special.

Jane never forgot a name. She loved everyone and truly enjoyed living in the Belleville area.



Janice M. LeBlanc

## JANICE M. LeBLANC

(May 25, 1948 - June 25, 2012)

Janice Marie LeBlanc was called to rest with the Lord June 25, 2012 at her home in Taylor, MI. She was born May 25, 1948 in Wyandotte, MI to the late Howard and Virginia Rafter of Florida.

She is survived by one son, James (Tammy) LeBlanc of Wyandotte, MI, and one daughter, Bethany (John) Harden of Adrian, MI, one brother Thomas (Rhonda) Rafter of Lincoln Park, MI and a step-mother Ruth Rafter. She is also survived by five grandchildren, James LeBlanc, Danielle LeBlanc, Ashlyn Harden, Abbie Lylle and Amanda Jones and one great-grandchild Elijah LeBlanc, also many nieces, nephews and wonderful friends.

She was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother, Loretta Chinavare of Wyandotte, MI, Donna Gozalka of Wyandotte, MI, and Howard Rafter of Belleville, MI.

Janice was a former member of Belleville United Presbyterian Church. She will be remembered as a gentle, kind-hearted, dear mother and friend who was always willing to help others in need. Family and Friends gathering will be held at the Belleville United Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, July 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by a Celebration of Life Service at noon. Luncheon to follow from approximately 1-2:30 p.m. at Belleville United Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 11900 Belleville Road, Belleville, MI 48111.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness or to the wishes of the family and would be appreciated. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

Please sign Janice's on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at [davidcbrownfh.com](http://davidcbrownfh.com).



Charles Schell

## CHARLES WALTER SCHELL

(August 25, 1956 -- June 28, 2012)

Charles Walter Schell, 55, of Tecumseh passed away June 28, 2012, unexpectedly in his beloved home. He was born Aug. 25, 1956, in Belleville, Mich., the son of Charles and Jean Schell. On December 7, 1982, he married the love of his life, Dolores (Laurie) Armstrong, and she survives.

Charlie retired from United Parcel Service after 23 years of service as an airline pilot. He was an IOE captain on 757/767, A300 and most recently, the 747. He had a wonderful job. His family, who loved him dearly, will miss him and his great sense of humor. His hobbies included farming, boating, snow skiing and his love of aviation that he passed to his son.

In addition to his wife, Laurie, Charles is survived by his children, Crystal (Josh) Parker, Melissa Schell and Charles Will Schell; granddaughter, Alaina Lynn Parker; mother, Jean B. Schell; sisters, Karen (Craig) Stabnau and Barbara J. Schell; mother-in-law Connie Drobot; and many more family and friends.

Charlie was preceded in death by his father, Charles Will Schell, and father-in-law, Frank J. Drobot. His memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 7, 2012, at the J. Gilbert Purse Funeral Home, Tecumseh, with the Rev. Chris Cadwallader officiating. Visitation will be

noon to 1 p.m. before the service. Following the ceremony there will be a pig/corn roast at the Schell residence, 7612 Billmyer, Tecumseh (517-215-2150) the way Charlie would have wanted it. The family has requested no flowers. Please make a donation to your favorite charity in honor of Charlie. Condolences to the family may be made online at [www.pursefuneralhome.com](http://www.pursefuneralhome.com).

## VBT residents report coyotes attacking pets in Country Ponds Estates

Last week a coyote reportedly attacked two dogs in Country Ponds Estates community, off Savage Road, sending both dogs to the veterinary hospital where they had to be stitched up.

The owner said she was very thankful both dogs are still alive. She said the vet was very concerned because he said coyotes don't hunt during the day unless they are very hungry.

"Might be a child next," she said.

She said she wanted to alert the public that small and medium-sized dogs are being attacked in broad daylight by coyotes.

She called Van Buren Township Police and talked to Belleville Police about the attacks. She said they suggested she let the newspapers know, so they can alert the community.

A VBT resident on Bemis Road near Martinsville reported he saw five coyotes recently in his yard. Residents of the south end of the township regularly hear coyote howls in the night.

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## More Letters

### Please: 'Stop the (library) insanity'

To the Editor:

Back in the '80s, Susan Powers (Google that one) coined the phrase, "stop the insanity", now of course, that was for some weight loss program, but we too, have our own "insanity" going on here in the tri-community library program, that needs to be "stopped" as well. Elections(?) for library board seats: Back in 2010, there was a call for appointments for the library board seat, announced by then mayor, Richard Smith. After the council meeting, I asked Mr. Smith about the appointment. He said, "It was already filled, we just had to announce the position, for legal reasons."

Wasn't too surprised to find out MJ Dawson "gets" the position. Wasn't even more surprised when she is elected by the "board" to become the chairperson, either.

Now, I find out, there will be a "election" to fill a few board seats come open. One, first, has to "qualify" by having a "said" amount of signatures nominating one's self for the position and pay a \$100 fee, to get on the vote.

The irony of all of this is what appears to be MJ Dawson's personal agenda, what looks to be having her "name" put on the new library building; fitting as her own husband's only lasting legacy is the electronic billboard, which has now turned into a "community" function board, which smacks of intervention of church and state, by advertising church activities as well (if some Islamic loonies wanted to post a class to behead infidels, would they post that too? I didn't think so) as well as his \$4.5 million white elephant, our main street, which looks so lovely with asphalt patches dotting the white concrete, uneven brick walkways creating possible pot holes and expansion joints coming out of their groove.

Personally I'd like to see Vera Howell get elected to this "Dawson Democracy"... better yet, Barbara Miller would add a little color to MJ Dawson's reign of terror.

Answer me this; how do you out spend your operating costs, hire all sorts of lawyers, consultants and advisors, do have them do your dirty work and "THEN" have the nerve (nice term) to state we will need a "bond" vote and an increased millage, for your little power play? Bonds? Your husband sold our little town's soul to the bond devils, so for the next 20-30 years we get to be reminded how much of a legacy he left us. Now you want a shiny, new, larger building, with more space and "less" books, and WANT ME TO BUY INTO IT?

I will promise you this: there are three communities that have to approve this, not you. This is one time you will have to answer to the people without the protection of your "closed" doors meetings ... I, like many others, will see to it any "bond" proposal or increased millage, will be shot down if you continue your current plans. We the voters do have the final say, not you and your current cronies on the library board.

Did I read right what was in the paper? There will be less books in the library? more computers and e-readers? Pardon my French, but what the hell? Then what is the "reason"

we need a larger, new library?

We need more books, more reference material, not more wall space for more quilts or your "honor" brass plaque. Personally, I feel these pipe dreams, along with your husband's road to debt, we got, need to be changed and changed now. With the cities receiving less and less tax monies, you want to be like Detroit, raise more taxes, with less services, just to feed your ego?

Like I said, to you and the current library board; you have tried our patience, one too many times; we will not allow any new bonds or taxes to be raised for these current plans, period.

Bob Balderston  
Belleville

### Arts Council seeks entries for Art Show

To the Editor:

Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA) is seeking people to enter the third-annual Community Art Show. Amateurs to professionals beginning at age 6 and up are invited to show their art at the show Friday, Aug. 10, noon to 8 p.m., and Aug. 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Anthony's Gymnasium, 409 West Columbia, Belleville. Generous cash prizes will be awarded. The art can be for sale by the artist with no commission being taken by BACA. We strive to promote art and cultural activities in the tri-community.

The entry deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012. Application and information is available on the website [www.bellevilleartscouncil.org](http://www.bellevilleartscouncil.org). If you would like to help sponsor the Art Show, please call 734-697-8123, or call for additional information, as well.

We will be serving a nice menu for your dining pleasure at a minimal cost throughout the day. There is no admission charge for the show. Hope to see you there.

Kay Atkins,  
BACA President

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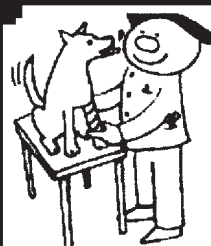
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**Upcoming Clinics:**  
**WILLIS FEED MILL, 10200 Railroad St., WILLIS, Mon., July 9th, 5-6 p.m.**  
**PET SPA 2, 970 Sumpter Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., July 15th, 4:30-6 p.m.**  
**PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., BELLEVILLE, Wed., July 18th, 5-8 p.m.**  
**PET SPA, 5260 Willis Rd., YPSILANTI, Sun., July 22nd, 4:30-6 p.m.**

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## More Letters

### VB T Trustee: Vote for Brenda McClanahan

To the Editor:

"Integrity - The ability to do what's right when nobody is watching," is embedded in the persona of Brenda McClanahan, candidate for the office of Trustee, Van Buren Township.

A 20-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department where she retired with the rank of Sergeant, Brenda epitomized professionalism throughout her stellar career. With a steadfast resolve to do things correctly, Brenda guided junior patrol officers of the DPD as a "First Line" supervisor. Understanding that the wisdom, tact, and knowledge that she imparted on her subordinates would be tested in the adjudications of various criminal cases, Brenda displayed the calm and assertive demeanor needed by her, and officers to survive on the streets of Detroit.

Her resolve didn't go unnoticed by departmental Command Officers, as she was soon elevated to more sensitive and responsible assignments. With assignments in the highly specialized commands of B&E/Armed Robbery Task Force, Homicide, and Major Crimes Division, Brenda's persona of "Integrity" was always in the forefront of every investigation she undertook.

As a candidate for Office of Trustee, Van Buren Township, Brenda McClanahan will bring that same degree of professionalism and Integrity into that elective office. The citizens of Van Buren Township will have an individual that will uphold the law, and serve fairly with impartiality in that position; never putting her own self-interests before that of the people.

In the current climate of political nonsense, Brenda McClanahan is like a breath of fresh air; fair, above reproach,

professional, and sincere in her desire to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Van Buren Township.

A vote for Brenda McClanahan is a vote for not only our future, but also it's a vote for sensibility, which is something that we can all use a little bit more of nowadays.

George Hall, Jr.

Assistant Chief of Police (Ret.)  
Detroit Police Department

### We appreciate Sharry Budd, VB T Treasurer

To the Editor:

As former elected township officials, we wish to thank Sharry Budd for her exemplary service to Van Buren Township and its residents. We enjoyed working with Sharry. Her professionalism and dedication are at the top of the political ladder.

She will continue her fine service in all future endeavors.

Doreen Craven, former VB T Clerk  
George Craven, former VB T Supervisor  
Van Buren Township

### Brief hailstorm hits Sumpter Township Sunday afternoon

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

A hailstorm with strong winds ripped through Sumpter Township around 6 p.m. Sunday, but most of the local damage was done in Huron Township to the east.

Sumpter Township Fire Chief Les Powell said one house in Huron Township had ten broken windows from the hail.

Chief Powell reported that on Sumpter Road, south of Judd, both sides of the road were a carpet of leaves right after the brief storm, with all the leaves showing the strength of the wind.

One tree was knocked down across Willis Road near Rawsonville, but the homeowner cut it up and cleared the road, Powell said.

Sumpter Clerk Clarence Hoffman reported hail that covered his yard on Dunn Road that looked like a snowfall.

### Williams, Symonds earn bachelors' degrees at Western Michigan Univ.

Ashley Corinne Williams of Belleville earned a bachelor of arts degree in Public Relations at the 2012 spring semester graduation ceremonies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Lorna Mae Symonds of Belleville earned a bachelor of science degree in Exercise Science at the spring graduation ceremonies at WMU.



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## Paul D. White

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# Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor hospitalized Saturday

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

On Saturday afternoon Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor was taken to Oakwood Hospital for treatment of an undisclosed condition.

On Monday, Chief Taylor said it was not his heart, but he was being pumped full of medicine and is "alive and kicking."

When asked what his problem was, he said, "I got sick."

He was unsure when he would be discharged from the hospital.

Meanwhile, he said his home in Huron Township was pummeled by Sunday's hailstorm that passed through the area.

## Birthdays

June 30 – Alan Bates  
July 2 – David and Marti Brown  
July 6 – Rose Laginess  
July 7 – Emilee Walter  
July 17 – Mary Jo Martin  
July 18 – Steven McArthur  
July 23 – Brandon Blackburn, Jane Kovach  
July 25 – Timmy Laginess

## Pet of the Week Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue "JOJOE"



**JoJoe** is anything but your average Joe cat. This large and handsome guy is hard to ignore in the crowd in both looks and personality. His extremely fluffy gray coat and big ragdoll like body remind you of a cuddly teddy bear you just want to squeeze and hold and he'd probably let you too. His soft, green eyes complement his gray coloring and look out from a completely likeable face. His friendly and playful temperament is equally charming. **JoJoe** is more than willing to come introduce himself to guests and enjoys being petted and loved on. You would never guess him to be a bit older by the way this big guy gets to playing. Even at the ripe age of five, **JoJoe** is still very much a kitten at heart and it's a complete blast to watch him bat around toys and happily tumble with the more than willing kittens here. Call soon to meet **JoJoe** who hands down is one of the nicest cats here. **JoJoe** is neutered, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. **734 461-9458**

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### Re-Elect **Alan D. Bates** Sumpter Township Trustee

**VOTE:  
AUGUST 7**

1. Water Department Liason.
2. Served on library commissions.
3. Helped create and maintain channel 12 and the Township website.
4. Member of Parks and Recreation Commission.
5. Member of Sumpter Seniors
6. Member of Sumpter Progressive League.

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#### - Elect -

### Johnny Vawters' Team

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**Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.**, Clerk  
**John W. Morgan**, Treasurer  
**Alan D. Bates**, Trustee  
**Bill Hamm**, Trustee  
**Peggy Morgan**, Trustee  
**Don Swinson**, Trustee

**VOTE:  
AUGUST 7**

1. Balanced the budget with minimum layoffs.
2. Merged dispatch with Huron Township to reduce costs.
3. Contracted with Republic Services to improve rubbish pick-up.
4. Have made major improvements to Banotai and Graham parks.
5. Started program to help citizens with the FEMA flood insurance problem.
6. Passed ordinance to protect citizens from synthetic marijuana and other dangerous products.



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Photo courtesy VBPS Board President Martha Toth  
Here's a recent picture of the exercise room at the new Belleville High School. Last week, as the construction crew got ready to turn over the new high school by the July 2 deadline, they worked at cleaning up the building. School Board President Martha Toth said she had been unable to get inside the new school since it was cleaned up, but she saw some security camera photos of the inside at last Thursday's technology team meeting. Toth said they are all a bit "fish-eye" since the source is the security cameras, but they also show more than ground-level photos. "It is really looking gorgeous!" Toth said.

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## They're reading the Independent everywhere

Lifelong Belleville resident Jim Luke and his grandchildren, Olivia and Owen Luke, were reading the *Independent* at the beach while vacationing in Destin, Florida recently.

For those who are considering submitting a photo, be advised that your entry will be run when space allows. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before it's printed. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$25 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$30 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

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The folks over at **Unified Communities Federal Credit Union** on Main Street in Belleville and in Canton have the best interest rates under the sun. Their 2012 Loan Special features 7.12% APR when you borrow \$2,012 for 12 months. Offer available through Aug. 12, 2012. To learn more call (734) 697-4800 or visit [www.unifiedcommunitiesfcu.com](http://www.unifiedcommunitiesfcu.com).

\*\*\*

The **Belleville Area Council for the Arts' 2nd-Annual ArtAffair** on Main, a 2-day fine art and antique fair coming to downtown Belleville July 28-29, is still in need of food vendors to serve the crowd. For more information and to download the vendor applications, visit [www.bellevilleartscouncil.org](http://www.bellevilleartscouncil.org) or call **ArtAffair Chairperson Steve Jones** at (517) 403-0351. Have some time to spare that weekend? The arts council is also looking for volunteers to help out at the event.

\*\*\*

**Raymond Hoot**, formerly of **Main Street Brokers** in Belleville, has received his Real Estate license and wants the community to know that he will work hard to earn your business for buying or selling your home. Hoot has joined the Real Estate One office at Briarwood Circle in Ann Arbor and is just minutes away from Belleville. Call (734) 717-7296 or email him at [raymondhoot@gmail.com](mailto:raymondhoot@gmail.com).

\*\*\*

Tonight's Council for the Arts' **Concert Lakeside** features **Battle of the Barbershop Quartet**, from 7-9 p.m. at **Horizon Park** on High Street. Rain-out location is The First United Methodist Church across the street.

\*\*\*

Our **Show Your Stripes** advertising promotion continues through today, July 5. Simply double the size of your display ad (or larger) for 4 weeks or more, you'll get free color. If you're not a current advertiser, but thinking about it, simply advertise in Belleville's real hometown newspaper for 2 months in color and get your third month of color for free. For details call me at (734) 699-9020.

\*\*\*

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

## Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, July 5** – Free outdoor concert with Battle of the Barbershop Quartets, 7-9 p.m., Horizon Park, High Street, Belleville. Sponsored by Belleville Area Council for the Arts.
- **Thursday, July 5** – The Evening Book

Group meets at the library at 7 p.m. This month's book: "The Girl in the Garden" by Kamala Nair.

• **Monday, July 9** – Cruisin' on the Bayou car show on Main Street in Belleville, 6-9 p.m.

• **Tuesday, July 10** – Ginger Bruder presents "The Tri-Community Area in the Civil War", 5-7 p.m. at the museum, free to historical society members, \$3 to others

• **Tuesday, July 10** – Tuesday's Cruzin the Belleville Moose, 6-9 p.m., music, food, drinks every Tuesday, 831 E. Huron River Dr.

• **Wednesday, July 11** – Classic Car Show at Diamond Back Saloon, 49345 S. I-94 Service Drive, sponsored in part by Ypsi Street Rods, 6 p.m. – dark, DJs, BBQ

# VOTE

## AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

# KIZ

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### for State Representative

a voice for everyday people

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Paid for by Kiz Ahamiojie for State Rep. Committee



# Diane Madigan

## for Van Buren Township Trustee



**My Goals as Trustee are:**

- ◆ To support businesses that will better serve the community both now and in the future.
- ◆ As an animal advocate, to represent you in preserving your rights to responsible animal ownership.
- ◆ As an independent thinker, to thoroughly and thoughtfully research every topic brought before the Board of Trustees.
- ◆ To support the hiring of additional patrol police officers and fire fighters to obtain a 2010 level of service.
- ◆ To insist on accountability and responsibility in providing services.
- ◆ To remain a source of support and information to the residents.
- ◆ To put the SERVICE back into Public Service.

Paid for by CTE Diane Madigan  
16163 Bak • Belleville, Michigan 48111

Any questions, comments or wishes of support: please contact me at  
[DianeMadiganVBT@aol.com](mailto:DianeMadiganVBT@aol.com) or 734-699-9207.

# VOTE August 7th

Vote August 7, 2012!

# Elect Tim Szetela

## Van Buren Township Supervisor

- Most Financial Management Experience of All Candidates
- Committed to Preserving Senior and Community Services
- Committed to Reducing Costs, including Overtime Costs
- Demonstrated Professional, Effective Leader
- Fresh Vision for Van Buren Township

# www.ElectSzetela.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Timothy Szetela, 13211 Mantauk Ct., Belleville, MI 48111



**PUT OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR YOU!**

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## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### JULY BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS  
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Homestead exemption status; and
- 3) Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to July 6, 2012.

Leon Wright, Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: July 5, 2012; July 12, 2012

## City of Belleville Public Notice

### City of Belleville JULY BOARD OF REVIEW



The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the City of Belleville will meet at City Hall, 6 Main Street on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 9:00 A.M.

The purpose of the meeting will be to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact.

Property assessments can only be changed for:

1. Homestead exemption status.
2. Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify under item 1 or 2 should call Belleville City Hall at 734-697-9323 prior to July 17, 2012.

Lisa Long  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: July 5, 2012

## Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, July 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Administration Building
- Tuesday, July 10 – Van Buren Township LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.

- Wednesday, July 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 12 – Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, July 16 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO • VOTE ON AUGUST 7th •

ADVERTISEMENT

### To the residents of Van Buren Township ...

I voted for Paul White in the last General Election.

I voted to retain Paul White in the Recall.

I am not voting for Paul White this time and here is why.

- 1** I went to question the land splits by Homer Morris to keep a dying man in his house.  
*Paul White responds: There is nothing YOU can do.*
- 2** I went to question the OVER HALF MILLION DOLLAR redundant water line that services only 7 homes.  
*Paul White responds: There is nothing YOU can do.*
- 3** I went to the township meeting to express my neighbor's concerns over their safety and well being regarding the HALF MILLION DOLLAR water line.  
*Paul White responds: There is nothing YOU can do.*  
My neighbor's response: I will join YOU and help.
- 4** I went to talk to other people in our township about their problems and issues.  
What do you think Paul White told them? You're right!!!  
*Paul White responds: There is nothing YOU can do.*

### My fellow township residents response: WE will join YOU and HELP.

I began to see a very clear pattern emerging here. This pattern made me stop and think ... This gave me a clear understanding of what I must do.

First, I need to realize there is something **I** can do. **I** can stand up for

something **I** believe in and for what's just plain right.

Secondly, **I** can fight and make my voice heard. **I** can take a completely broken system and help change it by getting around small

voices to combine as **ONE BIG ONE.**

Finally, **I** can organize a solution to this problem. There is something

**WE** can do. The solution to PAUL WHITE'S response is simple.

**WE** can VOTE AUGUST 7 and **REMOVE PAUL WHITE** from office. **PROBLEM SOLVED.**

*Don't forget ...*

**REMEMBER BEMIS ROAD  
REMOVE PAUL WHITE  
VOTE AUGUST 7**

Thanks in advance for all your support  
Sincerely without question,

Louis Kovach  
43774 Bemis Road  
Belleville, MI 48111



• THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO • VOTE ON AUGUST 7th •





Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Work began last Thursday to upgrade the parking lot of the PNA Hall, Sumpter at Harris roads. The previous Tuesday, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved the \$17,117 price quote of Diversified Excavating, the lowest of three quotes. Since Elwell Elementary School is no longer available as a voting precinct, the PNA Hall will be opened as a polling place for the August and November elections.

## Sumpter OKs upgrades to PNA Hall parking for use as location for voting

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Now that Elwell Elementary School will no longer be available as a site for Sumpter Township voters to cast ballots, that polling precinct is being moved to the PNA Hall in time for the Aug. 7 Primary Election.

Sumpter Township Clerk Clarence Hoffman said the county requires the polls to have Americans with Disabilities Act access which means hard surface at the handicap parking area. The township decided to do a complete overhaul of the parking lot, which board members said has needed it for a long time.

The board, at its regular meeting June 26, voted unanimously to accept the low price quote of \$13,475 from Diversified Excavating and add \$3,642 extra work for a total of \$17,117 to be paid out of the general fund.

Diversified began work two days later. At the June 26 township meeting, trustee candidate Marty Kalasz protested that the job should have gone out for sealed bids and have been published in the newspaper to give local contractors a chance to bid less.

Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody said Hennessey Engineers sought quotes and sealed bids were not required under township policy since the job was expected to be under \$20,000. Also, Moody said, the township was short on time since the August primary was fast approaching.

Supervisor Johnny Vawters said the second highest bid was \$55,000 and the third about \$99,000 and they took the lowest.

Trustee Peggy Morgan said the hall holds 250 people and the subcommittee thought the grass on the side of the building should be turned into additional angle parking for limousines and handicapped parking, which added the extra cost. The work also includes adding a second entrance, which the fire department thought was a good idea.

Moody said there will be two spots for buses to unload and leave an open fire lane.

"I think it's a win-win," Moody said. The hard-surface parking area is expected to make the rental hall more attractive to people who want to hold special events there.

Trustee Bill Hamm said he and others were weed whipping along the parking lot and were surprised at how bad the surface was.

In other business at the June 26 meeting, the board:

- Approved the low price quote of \$30 from the man who cleans the PNA Hall for cleaning of the permanent block restrooms at Banotai Park;

- Approved participating in a summer work program for youth paid for through the state, with no cost to Sumpter;

- Heard Trustee Peggy Morgan announce that Family Fun Day will begin at noon on July 21 at Graham Park and will feature free food and games for the whole family, and include the annual police and fire departments from Belleville and Sumpter vying for a trophy in a softball game;

- Heard Senior Coordinator Mary Ann Watson announce that the Senior Olympics, which will run Aug. 13-17, has close to 30 participants from Sumpter signed up, with Supervisor Vawters signed up for golfing. Sumpter will again host the cookies and cake contest and Police Chief Jim Pierce and Fire Chief Les Powell have agreed to be judges. Next year the Senior Olympics will be hosted by Sumpter and the City of Belleville. A facility that will house 400 is needed and Watson said they are hoping to get Belleville High School or Woodlands

golf clubhouse for the event;

- Heard Vawters remind everyone of Jimmy Long's special appreciation event on June 30 for police and fire departments of Sumpter, Belleville, and Van Buren Township;

- Heard Treasurer John Morgan announce that summer tax bills will be out the first week in July and are due in September. He said the color of the bill has been changed to pink because of the desires of the women in his office to promote the fight against breast cancer;

- Approved the 2013 SMART contract;
- Approved having employees who drive township vehicles submit driver's license reports. The police and fire employees already have their policies on this issue; and

- Heard resident Mary Ban ask about the date the failing sewer pump station was installed, but that was not known. When asked, Moody said the state's pollution monitoring well is nowhere near the pump station, but on a nearby lot. The state does come out and monitor the well.

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50 South St  
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734-699-7450  
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Saturday 10-2

**VETERAN'S OIL LUBE**   
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<p><b>\$10</b> SET OF WIPER BLADES INSTALLED (Most Cars) + Taxes</p> <p><small>WITH COUPON • SUMPTER AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 7-30-12 BAI</small></p>	<p><b>\$3 OFF</b> REGULAR OIL CHANGE <i>Up to 5 Quarts Oil.</i></p> <p><small>WITH COUPON • SUMPTER AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 7-30-12 BAI</small></p>
<p><b>\$20 OFF</b> ALL REPAIRS OVER \$100</p> <p><small>WITH COUPON • SUMPTER AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 7-30-12 BAI</small></p>	<p><b>COOLANT EXCHANGE</b> <b>\$39.95</b> <i>+ Anti-Freeze!</i></p> <p><small>WITH COUPON • SUMPTER AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 7-30-12 BAI</small></p>

**Jesus Is Waiting**

**4 U**

**Meet Him @ Church**

Message paid for by a member of the Catholic Church.

**C.T.S. AUTO**

**Cash Paid For Your Junk or**

**Wrecked Cars or Trucks!**

**If You Can't Or Don't Want To**

**Donate It, call us.**

**We Will Pick It Up Or You**

**Can Drive It In For More \$.**

**16007 Pardee, Taylor, Michigan**

**734-282-1700**



## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.  
For more detailed police logs, see [www.bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://www.bellevilleareaindependent.com).

### Sunday, June 24:

0001 – noise complaint, Sylvia/Rawsonville  
0005 – harassment call, 84 Park Estates  
0055 – noise complaint, 158 Aspen Ln.  
0059 – loud party complaint, 44194 Robson Rd.  
0106 – loud party complaint, Pond Bluff/Winding Pond  
0350 – disturbance, 48771 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0615 – malicious destruction, 39670 Ecorse Rd.  
1027 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / W. Huron River Dr.  
1045 – malicious destruction of property, 8733 Parkwood  
1250 – intimidation threat, 1274 Ridge Rd.  
1425 – ATV/ORV complaint, 42910 Stonebridge  
1431 – holdup alarm, 9601 Morton Taylor Rd.  
1422 – mental, 9111 Parkwood Dr.  
1440 – malicious destruction of property, 8733 Hardwood Dr.  
1552 – holdup alarm, 41111 E. Huron River Dr.  
1638 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1640 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / S. Ponderosa Trl.  
1815 – shots fired, 9588 Dalton Dr.  
1828 – narcotics crime, 11022 Oak Lane  
1945 – intimidation threat, 49608 Cross St.  
2042 – breaking & entering, 42311 McBride Ave.  
2101 – shots fired, 51219 Sylvia Dr.  
2107 – assault & battery, 41412 McKinley  
2116 – hospice, 6693 Senate St.  
2131 – property damage accident, 50521 W. Huron River Dr.  
2155 – arrest assist, Rawsonville/W. Huron River  
2158 – fraud, Meijer  
2218 – fireworks, 7844 Kirkridge Park Dr.  
2231 – suicide or attempt, 10880 Lighthouse Dr.  
2222 – fireworks, Park Estates  
2345 – juvenile complaint, Andover/Rolan

### Monday, June 25:

0006 – disturbance, 9198 Parkwood Dr.  
0903 – property damage accident, Belleville/S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1013 – breaking & entering, 2441 Rawsonville  
1114 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Village Green  
1151 – dumping complaint, Ecorse/Beck  
1202 – breaking & entering, 14152 Lenmoore  
1546 – unattended death, 9059 Parkwood  
1757 – animal complaint, 13970 Winding Pond  
1946 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service/Denton  
2017 – property damage accident, 39 Brandi  
2128 – noise complaint, 9086 Parkwood  
2148 – juvenile complaint, 7844 Kirkridge Park  
2205 – disturbance, 9089 Parkwood  
2230 – juvenile complaint, 10571 Dewitt  
2233 – fireworks, Haggerty/N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2301 – assault & battery, 6566 Outer Dr.  
2305 – noise complaint, 42038 Arthur St.

### Tuesday, June 26:

0107 – noise complaint, 14210 Westlake  
0331 – assault & battery, 41649 Van Born  
0511 – breaking & entering, 9744 Jackson  
1004 – intimidation threat, 11047 Oak Ln.  
1222 – breaking & entering, 6680 Liberty Ln.  
1230 – ATV/ORV complaint, 7702 Kirkridge Pk.  
1422 – disturbance, 7974 Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1515 – trespassing, 10562 Belleville, Walmart  
1532 – malicious destruction of property, 6468 E. Sadie Ln.  
1603 – fraud, 46050 Purple Sage  
1845 – property damage accident, 10930 Belleville  
1847 – larceny from auto, 48531 S. I-94 Service  
1907 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 48410 Denton Rd.  
2029 – assault & battery, 25 Oak Blvd.  
2110 – assault & battery, 6 Birch Dr.  
2208 – fireworks, 8701 Belleville  
2237 – larceny, 46073 Tallgrass Ct.  
2344 – harassment call, 10880 Lighthouse Dr.

### Wednesday, June 27:

0244 – assault & battery, 9278 Parkwood Dr.  
0538 – hospice, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1051 – larceny, 7999 Rayna Ct.

1105 – mental, 17100 Elwell  
1324 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck  
1355 – harassment call, 6089 Rawsonville  
1459 – breaking & entering, 50090 Michigan Ave.  
2044 – fireworks, 42045 Filmore St.  
2126 – noise complaint, 42045 Filmore St.  
2322 – hospice, 43900 Crowley Ave.  
2337 – fraud, Meijer  
2348 – noise complaint, 8851 Parkwood Dr.

### Thursday, June 28:

0626 – assault & battery, 2141 Rawsonville  
0823 – assault & battery, Bemis/tracks  
1039 – malicious destruction of property, 41382 Edison Lake Rd.  
1147 – assault & battery, EB I-94/Haggerty  
1208 – dumping complaint, Belleville/Station 2  
1236 – harassment call, 14525 Pond Bluff Dr.  
1253 – larceny, 11105 Quirk Rd.  
1516 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr./Liberty  
1615 – breaking & entering, 11777 Meadows Ln.  
1650 – trespassing, 14088 Burlwood Ln.  
1715 – fraud, Belleville BP  
1726 – fraud, 41415 Savage Rd.  
1850 – larceny, 9103 Celestine Dr.  
1919 – larceny, 6049 Vernon St.  
2013 – assault & battery, 43909 Stonebridge Dr.  
2102 – juvenile complaint, 51 Maple Dr.  
2130 – fireworks, 7844 Kirkridge Park Dr.

### Friday, June 29:

0057 – noise complaint, 10870 Lighthouse Dr.  
0120 – breaking & entering, 43216 Bemis  
0742 – property damage accident, 15035 Brookside Dr.  
1110 – lake complaint, Belleville Bridge  
1315 – intimidation threat, 41957 Arthur St.  
1353 – harassment call, 11027 Van Buren St.  
1429 – lake complaint, Belleville Bridge  
1510 – felony assault, 11550 Belleville  
1633 – intimidation threat, 41957 Arthur St.  
1840 – breaking & entering, Belleville Manor  
1927 – property damage accident, 15035 Brookside Dr.

2104 – fireworks, Kirkridge Park  
2112 – property damage accident, 2181 Rawsonville  
2135 – fireworks, Jackson/Arthur  
2229 – fireworks, Town & Country  
2246 – mental, 8701 Belleville Rd.  
2307 – fireworks, 7712 Kirkridge Park Dr.

### Saturday, June 30:

0137 – loud party complaint, 6144 Western  
0557 – fight, 46194 N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1216 – larceny, 490000 Denton Rd.  
1334 – property damage accident, Ecorse/ Morton Taylor Rd.  
1549 – noise complaint, 10129 Rolan Meadows  
1601 – assault & battery, 41824 Riggs Rd.  
1638 – operating while intoxicated, 16800 Lohr  
1849 – retail fraud, Walmart  
1902 – juvenile complaint, Lindsey/Fay  
2206 – fireworks, 13675 Beacon Trl.  
2206 – noise complaint, 8486 Moms Dr.  
2225 – noise complaint, 41700 N. Bellridge Dr.  
2315 – noise complaint, Cobblestone  
2325 – noise complaint, 536 Sumpter  
2327 – noise complaint, 47616 North Shore Dr.  
Also on this week's log are 223 traffic stops, 68 of which were on freeways: I-94 and I-275.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, June 24:

0008 – lost property, 6 Main St.  
0024 – missing person, 59 Loza Lane  
0448 – disturbance, 105 Wexford Ave.  
1110 – alarm intrusion, 562 Main St.  
1405 – civil matter, 130 Carmell St.  
1843 – domestic assault, 156 Belle Villa Blvd.  
2128 – noise complaint, Biggs/Wexford  
2141 – agency assist, Huron River/Hoeft

### Monday, June 25:

0008 – agency assist, 9198 Parkwood  
0104 – animal complaint, 222 Belle Villa Blvd.  
0144 – suspicious vehicle, Main/High  
0405 – agency assist, 501 Estrada  
0423 – agency assist, Village Green  
0644 – intrusion alarm, 300 Sumpter  
0838 – intrusion alarm, 531 Victorian Lane

0955 – abandoned auto, Church/Second  
1344 – panic alarm, 201 Third St.  
1441 – civil matter, 130 Carmell St.  
1500 – disorderly conduct, Lakeview  
1622 – assist citizen, Second/Church  
1723 – suspicious situation, 167 Fourth, library  
1932 – suspicious person, Fourth/Main  
2043 – traffic complaint, Fifth/N. Liberty St.  
2051 – malicious destruction of property, South Middle School  
2200 – serve warrant, 8 Loza Lane  
2225 – assist fire dept., 6 Main St.  
2259 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 201 Third St.

### Tuesday, June 26:

0020 – intrusion alarm, 531 Victorian Lane  
0145 – intrusion alarm, 531 Victorian Lane  
0535 – agency assist, 16650 Sumpter Rd.  
0659 – P.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main St.  
0856 – noise complaint, 6 Santa Clara St.  
1036 – misc. complaint, 6 Main St.  
1400 – civil matter, Citgo Gas  
1844 – neighbor trouble, 250 N. Liberty St.  
1935 – found property, Savage/Victorian Ln.  
2019 – suspicious person, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

2115 – noise complaint, W. Columbia/Sumpter  
2236 – suspicious vehicle, Main/First

### Wednesday, June 27:

0848 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.  
0916 – suspicious person, Main/Fifth  
0957 – holdup alarm, 25 Owen  
1047 – vehicle inspection, 6 Main St.  
1326 – assist fire dept., 430 Robbe St.  
1359 – disturbance, 109 N. Edgemont Ave.  
1424 – suspicious situation, 410 Harbour Pointe  
1511 – misc. complaint, 6 Main St.  
1701 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.  
1918 – property damage accident, 83 Bedell St.  
2338 – agency assist, 47827 W. Huron River Dr.

### Thursday, June 28:

0035 – intrusion alarm, 420 Sumpter Rd.  
0440 – assist fire dept., 85 Carmell St.  
0821 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.  
1346 – assist fire dept., 210 Belle Villa Blvd.  
1345 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 210 Belle Villa Blvd.  
1507 – assist motorist, 275 W. Columbia Ave.  
1610 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr. / Liberty  
1612 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.  
1729 – citizen assist, 6 Main St.  
2000 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.  
2206 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.  
2226 – intrusion alarm, 524 Main St.  
2229 – property check, 506 Harbour Pointe Dr.

### Friday, June 29:

0012 – suspicious situation, 221 Henry St.  
0604 – suspicious situation, 287 S. Industrial Park  
0903 – follow up, 59 Loza Lane  
0939 – fraud, 216 Roland  
1001 – misc. complaint, 6 Main St.  
1115 – animal complaint, 100 High St.  
1115 – animal complaint, 100 High St.  
1233 – assist fire dept., 105 Main St.  
1522 – intrusion alarm, 370 E. Columbia Ave.

### Saturday, June 30:

0028 – operating while intoxicated, Johnny's  
0309 – suspicious situation, 506 Harbour Pte. Dr.  
1013 – animal complaint, 45201 Owen St., South Middle School  
1147 – animal complaint, 76 S. Edgemont Ave.  
1330 – civil matter, 211 N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1636 – P.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main St.  
1644 – trespassing, 210 Astor Pl.  
1726 – P.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main St.  
1921 – personal injury accident, Tuscan Manor  
1934 – violation public health code / violation controlled substance act, 218 Belle Villa Blvd.  
2120 – follow up, 507 Estrada  
2312 – suspicious situation, 205 Roland St.  
2323 – noise complaint, Tuscan Manor  
Also on this week's log are 18 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, June 24:

0421 – larceny, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.  
0939 – assault, Rustic Lane  
1138 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Martinsville  
1206 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

1356 – 911 hangup, Greenmeadow  
1433 – suspicious person, Judd/Elwell  
1558 – property damage accident, 22000 bl. Clark  
2059 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Willis  
2145 – family trouble, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2342 – suspicious person, 47000 bl. Bemis

### Monday, June 25:

0718 – alarm, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1239 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1615 – larceny, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1719 – property damage accident, Willow / Haggerty  
1728 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Sumpter  
2034 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Wear  
2155 – traffic hazard, 28000 bl. Haggerty

### Tuesday, June 26:

0101 – threats complaint, Rustic Lane  
0148 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0727 – property damage accident, Willis/Karr  
0915 – civil dispute, 20000 bl. Karr  
1030 – fire dept. assist, Hickory  
1246 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1340 – ordinance violation, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1434 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1529 – noise complaint, Carriage Ln.  
1604 – noise complaint, New Mexico  
1623 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Haggerty  
1727 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis  
2200 – assist other agency, Willis/Rawsonville

### Wednesday, June 27:

0537 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Martinsville  
0610 – animal complaint, Willow/Martinsville  
0716 – suspicious incident, Delaware  
0825 – suspicious incident, Montana  
0846 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter  
1144 – animal complaint, 50000 bl. Willis  
1329 – juvenile complaint, Sherwood/Wear  
1406 – larceny, Redwood  
1545 – larceny, 45000 bl. Judd  
1945 – shots fired, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
2243 – fight, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.

### Thursday, June 28:

0038 – suspicious incident, Bemis/Elwell  
0149 – assist other agency, 10000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0750 – civil dispute, Montana  
0837 – suspicious person, 48000 bl. Bemis  
0914 – assist other agency, Maple  
0951 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Judd  
1118 – alarm, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.  
1157 – malicious destruction of property, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1329 – civil dispute, Rustic Lane  
1414 – harassment complaint, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2209 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2343 – suspicious incident, New Mexico

### Friday, June 29:

0043 – noise complaint, Rustic Lane  
0413 – abandoned vehicle, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.  
00740 – breaking & entering report, 45000 bl.

### Bontekoe

0841 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Sherwood  
0854 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Willis

1154 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Executive  
1229 – suspicious incident, Willis Rd.  
1645 – warrant arrest, out of township  
1801 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1840 – suspicious vehicle, 50000 bl. Judd  
1849 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Wear  
2104 – warrant arrest, out of township  
2143 – fire dept. assist, E. Arizona

### Saturday, June 30:

0123 – suspicious incident, Rawsonville/Wear  
0239 – juvenile complaint, Rustic Lane  
1148 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1251 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville  
1332 – alarm, 26000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1555 – animal complaint, Wear/Elwell  
1718 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood  
1731 – ordinance violation, 24000 bl. Sherwood  
1759 – suspicious person, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1901 – suspicious incident, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1934 – civil dispute, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1953 – juvenile complaint, Sumpter/Judd  
2005 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.  
2037 – suspicious person, 17000 bl. Elwell  
2244 – noise complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Also on this week's log are 16 follow-up investigations, 21 miscellaneous details, 141 patrol checks, and 41 traffic stops.

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## Motorist runs away during traffic stop after high-speed chase on I-94

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

While local law enforcement officials were involved with seeking the armed robber of the PNC Bank on Rawsonville Road, Van Buren Township officers also were trying to make a traffic stop on I-94 after a high-speed chase.

The two incidents were not related, other than they were happening at the same time, about 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 26.

VBT Police Captain Gregory Laurain said an officer stopped a resident of Romulus for speeding on eastbound I-94. He had no operator's license on him and then fled on foot when the officer was running his name in the computer.

According to other reports, the attempt to stop the car began at Belleville Road and the pursuit went eastbound to a location near Wayne Road when the motorist pulled over. Some reports say his speed was clocked at 90-100 mph.

He ran into a wooded area.

Captain Laurain said VBT called Romulus Police for help with a K-9 track. Reportedly, the dog was not available.

"We never did locate the driver," Laurain said. "He did give the officer his correct name and date of birth, so we know where to find him and who to file charges on."

The speeder was driving a blue car and police were seeking a red car from the bank robbery.

### Head-on collision

A two-car, head-on collision occurred at about 9:30 p.m., Sunday, June 24, near Pine Creek golf course on West Huron River Drive.

Captain Laurain said one driver was female and one was male. The female was not injured and was walking around at the scene.

The male driver was in critical condition and taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

"It appears that alcohol may have played a part in the crash regarding the male and female," Laurain said.

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

There was a large turnout on June 22 for the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony at the Sweet Chateau business on Main Street. Owners Victoria Thompson and Mary Rice welcomed Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley, city council members, Sumpter Township Supervisor Johnny Vawters, Sumpter Trustees, Van Buren Trustees, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, other chamber members and area residents.

  
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40449 WILLIS Rd. off Clark Rd. July 5-6, 9-3 p.m. 24' above ground swimming pool, Lots of Party Lite, Dreamsicles, Ratchet straps, Hot Sauce collection. 7/05

HUGE OUTDOOR SALE. Ypsilanti Moose Lodge. 5506 Stoney Creek Rd./Whittaker Rd July 21, 9- 4 p.m. Something for Everyone. 7/19

ESTATE SALE - 7266 WILLIS RD. July 12-14, 9-4 p.m. Furniture, Beauty Shop & Office equipment, Household, Collectibles, Toys. Rain or Shine items will be under a tent. 7/19

48270 MARTZ RD. July 6-23, 9-7 pm. 2 Dr. Refrig., 10" Radial saw, Antiques, Household, Hand tools, Boat motor, Machine shop tools, Clearing Garage & Basement. New Stuff Everyday. Don't Miss Out. 7/19

BARN SALE - 20645 SUMPTER RD. July 6-8, 9-6 p.m. Little Bit of Everything 7/05

MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE - 40373 Harris Rd. July 5, 10-5 p.m. July 6-7, 9-5 p.m. Something for Everyone. 7/05

## FOR SALE

ALL STEEL BUILDINGS - FACTORY Deals. Ask for Discounted Sizes. Limited Inventory, Can Erect. Source # IPI (800) 964-8335 7/05

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MOVING - VIEWING BY APPT. JULY 21, 2012. Lincoln Continental, 106,000 miles, Flooring, T.V., Lamps, Tables, Dining table/chairs, Bedding, Tupperware. (702) 292-6666 leave message. 7/19

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## WANTED

WANTED - FEMALE ROOMMATE. Non/smoker, Share rent & Utilities, No pets. (734) 772-2019 Kim 7/12

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FREE ENTERTAINMENT STAND. You pick up. (734) 783-2480 or (734) 732-9557 Jen or Ken 7/19

FREE 6 WEEK ZUMBA CLASSES for women. Starts July 23 @ 7 p.m. Cornerstone Christian Church, 44500 Willis Rd. Meet Mondays 7 p.m. Must Register. (734) 753-4226 7/19

## FOUND

FOUND - WOMAN'S WATCH. June 21 at Meijer's gas station. Call to identify. (734) 697-2750 7/12

YOUNG FEMALE CAT with black/tan markings. Found on Willis Rd. June 13<sup>th</sup>, nails clipped. (734) 796-0869 7/19

## LOST

LOST CAT - Last seen June 26 in area of 250 N. Liberty, City of Belleville. Black & brown tabby cat. May have bald spot on right leg. Call and leave message. 734-334-6399 7/19

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Around 8 a.m. Monday, a 42" Detroit Water transmission line broke along Ecorse Road at Willow Run Airport, creating a huge pond with a bubbling fountain. Van Buren Township DPW Superintendent James Taylor said this line is the primary feed to the township. At the point it broke it is still Detroit water, he said. The break caused a drop in pressure to VBT water customers, but the new water tower provided a good supplement to keep the pressure reasonable. Taylor said it will take a few days for Detroit water crews to fix the break and they won't know the damage until they excavate. Then there were be the process to get the lines cleaned for the water, which is used for drinking, fire suppressing, and everything else in the township, he said.

## Washtenaw Sherriff Deputies arrest suspect in PNC Bank robbery

James Robert Murdock, 34, of Ypsilanti, was arraigned Friday on a charge of armed robbery of the PNC Bank at 2140 Rawsonville Road in Ypsilanti Township. Murdock is being held in the Washtenaw County jail without bond.

According to the Offender Tracking Information System, Murdock currently is considered a parole absconder after three retail fraud, first degree, and one unarmed robbery convictions. According to OTIS Murdock has 33 tattoos, several Cash Flow Posse related.

Murdock is suspected of robbing the bank

at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 26. Police arrested him the next day.

The robber entered the bank, implied he had a weapon, and demanded cash. One report said \$1,000 in \$20 bills without a dye pack was taken. After taking the money, he fled the bank.

The Sheriff's Department released surveillance pictures from the robbery. The suspect was described as a white male, 25 to 35 years old, 5 foot 10 inches tall, with a medium build and sandy blond curly hair down to his ears. He was wearing blue jeans, a white hooded sweatshirt with a Nike emblem on the front, sunglasses and a floppy tan "fisherman's" hat.

Police believe the suspect got into a red four-door car occupied by two white males, then fled in an unknown direction.

## Welcome, Jalen Taylor Nutter



Michael and Janet Nutter announce the arrival of Jalen Taylor Nutter, born May 20, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Jalen weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Bill and Pam Taylor of Belleville and Donna Nutter of Flat Rock.

## City Planners

(continued from page 1)

on the books that have been conflicting with one another. One requires planning commission recommendation as well as city council approval while the other did not. The new ordinance would combine both into one.

New language will be introduced at a public hearing before the commission on Aug. 9. The amendments will better define outdoor café into a Minor Outdoor Café License and a Major Outdoor Café License. The Minor Outdoor Café License would be issued by the City Clerk and City Manager while the Major Outdoor would be issued by the Clerk, and have to go before the City Council.

The commission also learned that it will soon be receiving an update on the city's sign ordinance. A subcommittee has been working on it for many months and updating the list of conforming and non-conforming signs within the city.

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## American Heritage Girl group to organize at St. Anthony Church

American Heritage Girls, a Christ-centered scouting program for girls ages 5 to 18, is starting a troop in Belleville and is looking for girls and adults interested in helping.

An information meeting will be held

from 7 to 8 p.m. Sunday, July 15, at the St. Anthony School Building, 409 W. Columbia Avenue in Belleville.

For more information, contact Rachel Faitel at 734-697-2988 or at [rachelfaitel@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelfaitel@yahoo.com). Also, learn more about American Heritage Girls at [ahgonline.org](http://ahgonline.org).



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## Introducing State Rep. candidate Ahamiojie

My name is Kiz Ahamiojie, a resident of Van Buren Township, and I am running for State Representative for the 21<sup>st</sup> district on the Democratic ticket.

I want to be a servant for the people of the 21<sup>st</sup> district, to serve and be a voice for everyday people on everyday issues. For too long, we have made politics about political parties and affiliations; a consequence of this is that nothing gets done any more!

Great ideas and programs get voted down just because they are coming from the "other" party. If elected, I will work with other legislators, regardless of their political party, that have great ideas that will make jobs available, make education with a focus on math and science a priority and



Ahamiojie

resolve the housing problems that majority of hardworking people are facing.

I have lived in the great state of Michigan for over a decade and have been a resident of and a homeowner in Van Buren Township for about 3 years. I really love it here! As an individual that lived abroad for some years, I know what lack of freedom and opportunities feel like, and that is why I never take for granted the rights, freedom and opportunities that we have in the United States; there is nowhere I would rather be.

I am a husband of a wonderful wife and a father of 2 beautiful kids -- 3 year old and a 2 month old. I am also a member of the local Catholic Church in Belleville and I register from time to time with Van Buren Soccer Association.

I have always been interested in government and public service, which is why I have an undergraduate degree in Public Administration; I also have a graduate degree in Business Administration from Wayne State University. I have worked in the finance industry for about a decade and I operate a consulting business which I set up.

Having volunteered for various organizations and campaigns and having met with lots of people from this district, I have realized that people are tired of the divisive partisan politics that is not letting us move forward. We can't even agree on funding and providing quality education for our kids! While some believe throwing money after every problem is the solution, others believe stripping programs of all funding is the way out; I believe there is a middle ground. Programs should be funded based on cost and benefit analysis and other common sense factors, not based on the political party of any individual involved.

My goal as a State Representative is to be that non-Lansing insider voice on everyday issues of jobs, education, healthcare, housing and equal pay for women and men for equal work, I will not let party affiliation be a barrier on making common sense decisions. I will also work hard to minimize unnecessary spending and create a good environment for businesses to thrive.

I am asking for your vote on Aug. 7. It is time to get past partisan politics and vote a non-Lansing-insider that understands what it is like to be an everyday person.

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